88 Rec'd PCT/PY029 APR 19

Attorney Docket No. 15258-317

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re U.S. National Phase of PCT/IB96/01156 of

WILLIAM DAVID PARTEN

Serial No: not yet assigned

Filed: herewith

For: FLUID-FLUID CONTACTING

APPARATUS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE

STATEMENT UNDER

37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98

San Francisco, California 94111 April 29, 1998

Box PCT Assistant Commissioner of Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The references cited on attached form PTO-1449 are being called to the attention of the Examiner. A copy of each is enclosed.

It is respectfully requested that the cited information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and the references be made of record therein and appear among the "references cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

The above items are considered pertinent in that they relate to packings in contacting apparatus, and further because they were cited against applicant's counterpart international patent application. Also attached is a copy of the International WILLIAM DAVID PARTEN

Serial Number: not yet assigned

Page -2-

Search Report by the European Patent Office in which these references were cited and which lists the U.S. patent numbers corresponding to the cited foreign references.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin T. LeMond Reg. No. 35,933

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP Two Embarcadero Center, 8th Fl. San Francisco, California 94111-3834

(415) 576-0200

15258-317.ids